

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19th August 2020 at 7.30 pm on the Zoom Video and Teleconferencing Platform. ^[1].

Those present:

Chairman:	Councillor John Wyatt
Vice Chairman:	Councillor Jane Lay
Councillors:	Councillor Jean Bowman Councillor Liz Burns Councillor Simon Stanley
Also Present:	Mr John Kersey - Allotment Representative Mr Robert Stimpson - Allotment Representative Mr Tim Denyer - Sports Representative
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council David Abbott - Facilities Manager Mark Ellis - Works Manager Charlotte Gomes - Leisure Development Manager, Three Rivers District Council (Part meeting)

^[1] *Permitting legislation - The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.*

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

99. Apologies for absence

None.

100. Declarations of Interest

None.

101. Public Participation

No members of the public had expressed an interest in addressing the committee.

102. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Simon Stanley and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2020, copies of which had been sent to all Members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting, be taken as read and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

103. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field - Mr John Kersey

No report due to communication difficulties.

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stimpson

No report.

Police attended when a shed break in was discovered in progress. The offender made off.

The Clerk confirmed that allotment inspections would restart, but at the moment they were being treated as low priority due to workload challenges in the Works Team.

104. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Abbots Youth Football Club - Mr Tim Denyer

Thanks to the Works Team for preparing the pitches and marking out prior to the start of the season.

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105. Primrose Hill Play Area

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Simon Stanley and **RESOLVED** that the recommendation from Three Rivers District Council that the contract be awarded to Caloo (design option 1) be accepted.

Pre-final contract, officers were asked to resolve questions around ongoing spares and support, possibility to install artificial surface instead of grass on the mounds and to confirm appropriateness of the vehicle entrance gate.

106. Pitch Fees 2020-2021

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the following arrangements for football club pitch fees be approved for the 2020-2021 season.

- Booking forms agreed with clubs August/September.
- Invoices raised in line with charges agreed in Fees & Charges 2020-2021.
- In the event of payments being missed the PC will call in the full remaining balance of the invoice.
- If in the event of a pandemic “second wave” and National or Local Government require a cessation of all recreational sports, then the PC will credit the full weeks for which the clubs cannot play matches.
- First month’s fees to be “free of charge” to offset matches lost at the end of the 2019-2020 season due to lockdown.

Operational details to be finalised by the Clerk under delegated authority.

The Clerk was asked to reach agreement with the cricket clubs over charging for what remains of the cricket season.

107. Fireworks Display & Christmas Arrangements

The Lions will be taking a decision on the fireworks display by the end of August. Based on current government advice it is considered unlikely that the event will go ahead.

Officers confirmed that plans were in hand to install the Christmas lights as usual and that a tree had been ordered for St. Lawrence Church grounds.

A decision on whether any formal event will take place will be taken nearer the time.

108. Litter and Waste on Parish Council Open Spaces

Members noted the Clerk’s response to comments raised by residents in regards to the levels of litter in the open spaces.

This was a national problem. The Clerk advised that officers made efforts to get the message out that those that created litter were the real problem and that litter picking had been a major challenge since lockdown restrictions eased.

At this stage members did not feel it was necessary to install further waste bins

Consideration will be given in the Spring to a local campaign on litter awareness.

109. Key Projects 2020-2022

i. Depot Surface

Progress has been slower than expected due to significant staff absence at the consultants. A new consultant has been allocated to the project and initial signs are that the progress is improving.

The Works Manager confirmed minor remedial works would take place to ensure the surface would be safe through the winter months, as clearly the works on the surface would now not take place until next year.

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ii. Primrose Hill Footpath Lights

Officers confirmed the above were end of life, due to repeated failure of the light heads and water ingress into the cabling and posts. Electricians will undertake maintenance before the winter months.

In the Spring consideration to be given to installing a solar powered lighting system, similar to the one in Leavesden Country Park.

Evaluation will be required on the expected life cycle of the solar units, required maintenance schedule, battery life and their rare metal make up.

iii. Kitters Green - Protection Bollards

Councillor Jane Lay to meet with the Facilities Manager and Works Manager to outline where an extension to the current bollards may be appropriate.

110. Tree Management Programme - High Street

Members agreed that the trees on the High Street were in some cases becoming overbearing on the street scene and limiting light to residential properties.

The consultant arboriculturist will be asked to draft a management programme to significantly reduce the volume of a number of the trees.

Members noted that the budget for tree works would come under pressure in 2020-2021.

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____